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Academician A. N. Nesmeyanov then addressed the General Assembly, thanking them for their trust and belief in him and the Soviet regime.

Biographical Sketch of Nesmeyanov

Academician Aleksandr Nikolayevich Nesmeyanov was born in Moscow in 1899. He graduated from Moscow State University imeni M. V. Lomonosov in 1922, and remained at the Chair of Organic Chemistry to continue his studies under the guidance of Academician N. D. Zelinskiy. Eventually he became rector of the university. Between 1922 and 1934, Nesmeyanov worked first as an assistant and then as a docent at this chair.

In 1934, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Chemical Sciences, and at the same time was named to a professorship on the Chemistry Faculty at the Moscow State University. In 1935, he became chief of the Laboratory of Metallo-Organic Compounds, Institute of Organic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences USSR. In 1939, he was elected Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences and named director of the Institute of Organic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences USSR.

There has not been a single year in which Nesmeyanov has not shown evidence of his great scientific capabilities. In 1943, when he was elected an Active Member of the Academy of Sciences, he was already well known for his achievements in scientific research and in teaching. For his valuable work, Nesmeyanov has been twice awarded the Order of Lenin and the Order of Labor Red Banner.

Nesmeyanov's forte has been that wide field of chemistry, the metallo-organic compounds. Soviet interest in the field of metallo-organic compounds can be traced to A. M. Butlerov, who initiated the theory of chemical structures.

Nesmeyanov contributed to the knowledge of the chemistry of elemento-organic compounds by devising many new means of chemical synthesis. One of his most important contributions has to do with the diazo compound method for obtaining metallo-organic compounds (now known as Nesmeyanov's diazo method).

Nesmeyanov and his students are responsible for having developed many methods for interrelated conversions from the organic compounds of one type of elements to organic compounds of other elements, for example, the interrelated conversions between mercury-organic compounds on the one hand, and organic compounds of zinc, cadmium, manganese, aluminum, thallium, and other elements on the other.

One of his main fields of interest has been the study of the relations of atoms in molecules. He has also carried out considerable research in the field of stereochemistry, particularly the study of the geometric isomerism of ethylene metallo-organic compounds.

As a result of many years of study, he was able to establish a relationship between the structure and the reactivity of metallic derivative tautomeric systems. In addition, Nesmeyanov and his school have been very active in contributing to the general national economy and the military needs of the Soviet Union.

A. N. Nesmeyanov is well known for his organizational and administrative abilities. Since 1939, he has been the director of the Institute of Organic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences USSR. During the period 1946-48 he was also the academician-secretary of the Department of Chemical Sciences, Academy of Sciences USSR. Since 1946, he has also been a member of the Presidium, Academy of Sciences USSR.

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For many years he has been directing the operations of the Chair of Organic Chemistry, Moscow State University and has been very active in training young scientists in the fundamentals of metallo-organic chemistry.

In 1943, Nesmeyanov was a candidate to the VKP(b) and in 1944 he was elected a member of the VKP(b). At present, he is a member of the Moscow Municipal Committee and the Krasnorechensk Rayon Committee of the party.

The Moscow University imeni M. V. Lomonosov has flourished under the guidance of Rector Nesmeyanov. It has become the leading educational center of the USSR. The new building of the university, which is being raised under the direct supervision of Nesmeyanov, will be the pride of the Soviet nation.

Nesmeyanov has also worked actively in the Committee for Stalin Prizes, of which he is chairman. He has always been active in political matters, and has been elected deputy chairman for the Supreme Soviet RSFSR, is a member of the Supreme Soviet USSR, and in 1949 was named a member of the Permanent Committee of the International Congress for Peace. At the second International Congress he was named to the International Peace Council.

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